

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-29 (cancelled)

30. (new) A method for supporting a load on a transport vehicle in a manner permitting the load to be moved between an upper stowed position and a lower operating position along a linear, vertical path, the method comprising:

mounting a support frame to the transport system, the support frame having both a horizontal and a vertical span;

mounting one or more rails within the support frame and positioning the one or more rails to span the vertical span of the support frame;

mounting one or more slides on the one or more rails, such that the one or more slides are moveable in a substantially vertical path along the one or more rails;

mounting one or more moveable platforms on the one or more slides, such that the one or more moveable platforms are moveable with the one or more slides within the support frame in said substantially vertical path to allow said load, which is supported by the one or more platforms, to move between the stowed position and the operating position along said substantially vertical path;

providing a drive system for moving the one or more slides, the one or more platforms, and the load between the stowed position and the operating position;

providing a transfer device which engages the one of more slides and spans a space between the one or more rails;

connecting the drive system directly to the transfer device; and

slip mounting the transfer device to the one or more slides, permitting a relative movement between the one or more slides and the transfer device.

31. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein said connecting of the drive system comprises connecting the drive system directly to the transfer device in a manner that allows for a relative movement between the transfer device and the support frame for minimizing any binding forces within the drive system.

32. (new) The method of claim 30, further comprising:
providing an upper elongated mounting surface on the support frame; wherein said mounting of the one or more rails comprises mounting the one or more rails on the upper elongated mounting surface on the support frame;
mounting a jack screw block on the transfer device;
providing a vertical screw on the drive system;
rotatably mounting one end of the vertical screw on the elongated upper mounting surface on the support frame; and
axially extending the vertical screw through the jack screw block.

33. (new) The method of claim 32, further comprising providing a lower elongated mounting surface on the support frame, wherein said mounting of the one or more rails comprises mounting opposite ends of each rail to said upper and lower surfaces of the support frame.

34. (new) A method for supporting a frac blender on a transport vehicle in a manner permitting the frac blender to be moved along a substantially vertical linear path between a raised transport position and a lowered operating position, the method comprising:

mounting a support frame on the transport vehicle, the support frame having both a horizontal span and a vertical span;

mounting one or more rails within the support frame, the one or more rails positioned to span the vertical span of the support frame;

mounting one or more slides on the one or more rails, such that the one or more slides are movable in a substantially vertical path along the one or more rails;

mounting one or more moveable platforms on the one or more slides, such that the one or more moveable platforms are moveable with the one or more slides within the support frame in said substantially vertical path to allow the frac blender, which is supported by the one or more platforms, to move between the transport position and the operating position along said substantially vertical path;

providing a drive system for moving the one or more slides, the one or more platforms, and the frac blender between the transport position and the operating position; and

providing a transfer bar which engages the one of more slides and spans a space between the one or more rails;

connecting the drive system directly to the transfer bar; and

slip mounting the transfer bar to the one or more slides, permitting a relative movement between the one or more slides and the transfer bar.

35. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein said connecting of the drive system comprises connecting the drive system directly to the transfer bar in a manner that allows for a relative movement between the transfer bar and the support frame for minimizing any binding forces within the drive system.

36. (new) The method of claim 34, further comprising:

providing an upper elongated mounting surface on the support frame; wherein said mounting of the one or more rails comprises mounting the one or more rails on the upper elongated mounting surface on the support frame;

mounting a jack screw block on the transfer bar;

providing a vertical screw on the drive system;

rotatably mounting one end of the vertical screw on the elongated upper mounting surface on the support frame; and

axially extending the vertical screw through the jack screw block.

37. (new) A method for supporting a frac blender on a transport vehicle in a manner permitting the frac blender to be moved along a substantially vertical linear path between a raised transport position and a lowered operating position, the method comprising:

mounting a substantially rectangular support frame on the transport vehicle, the support frame comprising vertically elongated sides and horizontally elongated top and bottom members;

mounting a pair of rails within the support frame in a parallel spaced relationship, such that the pair of rails extend vertically between said horizontally elongated top and bottom members of the support frame;

mounting a slide on each rail of said pair of rails, such that each slide is moveable in a substantially vertical path along the pair of rails;

mounting a moveable platform on the slides, such that the moveable platform is moveable with the slides within the support frame in said substantially vertical path to allow the frac blender, which is supported by the platform, to move between the transport position and the operating position along said substantially vertical path;

providing a drive system for moving the slides, the platform, and the frac blender between the transport position and the operating position;

providing a transfer bar which engages the slides and spans a space between the pair of rails;

connecting the drive system directly to the transfer bar; and

slip mounting the transfer bar to the slides, permitting relative movement between the slides and the transfer bar.

38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein said connecting of the drive system comprises connecting the drive system directly to the transfer bar in a manner that allows for a relative movement between the transfer bar and the support frame for minimizing any binding forces within the drive system.

39. (new) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

Appln No. 10/611753

Response date January 4, 2007

Reply to Office action of August 29, 2006

providing an upper elongated mounting surface on the support frame; wherein said mounting of the one or more rails comprises mounting the one or more rails on the upper elongated mounting surface on the support frame;

mounting a jack screw block on the transfer bar;

providing a vertical screw on the drive system;

rotatably mounting one end of the vertical screw on the elongated upper mounting surface on the support frame; and

axially extending the vertical screw through the jack screw block.

40. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein said rotatably mounting of one end of the vertical screw comprises positioning an opposite end of the vertical screw such that it is free to move translationally relative to the support frame.